

From FEMA's web site: http://www.fema.gov/txt/ofm/35sg1_031103.txt

Page 35. Fiscal Year 2002 Annual Performance Report.
Strategic Goal 1. Protect Lives and Prevent the Loss of Property from
Natural and Technological Hazards.

Goal 7. Communication.

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) supports the reduction of the loss of life from fire-related incidents (1998 Baseline: 4,500) (P.3). Each year fire kills more Americans than all natural disasters combined. The annual impact of fire includes over 4,000 deaths, more than 22,000 injuries, and direct property losses in excess of \$11 billion.

In response, USFA has developed a series of operational objectives that target the nation's high-risk groups and communities. The USFA continues to focus on children ages 14 years and younger, adults ages 65 and older, and firefighters. To maintain this focus, USFA conducts national fire service training programs to enhance the effectiveness of the nation's fire and emergency response personnel, and has partnered with other federal agencies, national fire service organizations, state and local fire service training agencies, and colleges and universities. Through these partnerships, USFA continues to leverage resources and develop strategies that promote safety and health for the nation.

During FY 2002, USFA disseminated 4,126,445 publications to the general public, private industry, and federal, state and local governments. There were also 2,894,475 Web site visitors. Likewise, the National Fire Academy (NFA) delivered 1,697 courses to 80,397 students nationwide.

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"The (department) had little equipment with which to fight fires--no hand tools or other equipment to effectively bring a fire under control. The tools and equipment helped us achieve a higher level of firefighter safety. The grant also helped us achieve a class nine rating--which resulted in lower insurance premiums for the district."

"This (communications equipment) has greatly improved fire ground and emergency scene communications. It has enabled us to provide a more organized scene command, because everyone can hear clearly what is being said over our radios without background interference."

Based on the events of September 11, 2001, and the increase in the loss of life from fire and fire-related incidents, there was a significant increase in the number of requests for NFA training. As residential training was filled to capacity, training delivered through hand-off programs at the state and local level increased by approximately 26% in FY 2002. As a direct result the number of students trained through hand-off delivery programs increased approximately 58%.□